

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Charlie Dent  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations,  
Subcommittee on Military Construction,  
Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dent and Ranking Member Wasserman Schultz,

As you begin work on the fiscal year 2019 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we urge you to again prevent funds from going to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for its two most painful categories of experiments on dogs.

Thanks to your leadership, last July, the House of Representatives unanimously adopted the Brat-Titus amendment to defund painful and unnecessary experiments on dogs at the VA in FY18. The vote follows reports of waste and abuse uncovered in dog testing labs at the only three VA hospitals (Richmond, Cleveland, and Milwaukee) still using dogs in significantly painful tests. The Los Angeles VA halted plans for such testing after concerns were raised by Congress.

Since then, bipartisan support for the effort to eliminate funding for VA's harmful and inefficient research on dogs has continued to grow tremendously, especially in light of technological advances in alternative testing that are available.

**SECVA supports reforms**

Last month, VA Secretary David Shulkin stated in an interview, "*I am not a strong believer in the need for canine research.*" The Secretary called for restrictions on the controversial practice.

**Strong support from veteran community**

Over a dozen Veterans Service Organizations representing hundreds of thousands of veterans have endorsed our efforts to defund the VA's dog testing due to its painful procedures and lack of benefits for veterans. A September 2017 national poll found that a majority of veterans and their family members also support this legislation.

**Supermajority support from taxpayers**

A February 2018 national poll of 1,000 voters by Lincoln Park Strategies found that 66% of Americans support cutting funding for VA's painful dog testing.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

*Sec. \_\_. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to purchase, breed, transport, house, feed, maintain, dispose of, or experiment on dogs as part of the conduct of any study assigned to pain category D or E, as defined by the Department of Agriculture.*

*(b) This section shall not apply to training programs or studies of service dogs described in section 1714 of title 38 United States Code or section 17.148 of title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations.*

We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



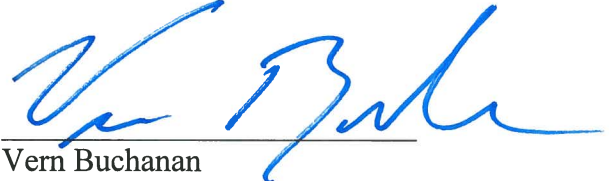
Dave Brat  
Member of Congress



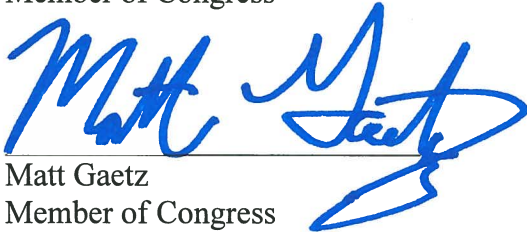
Dina Titus  
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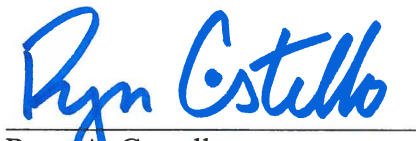
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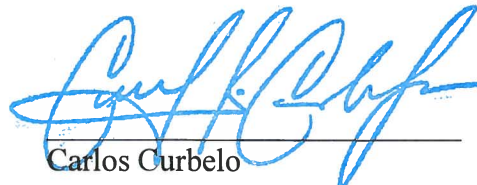
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
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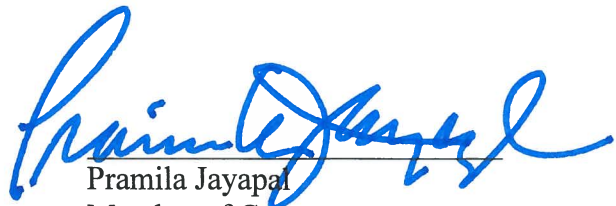
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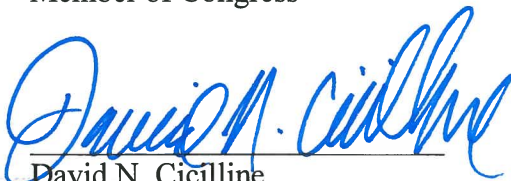
Mark DeSaulnier  
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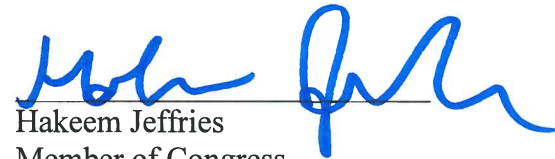
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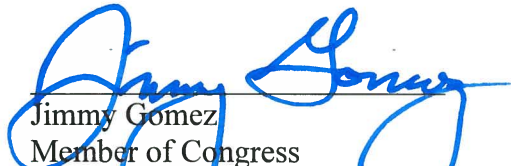
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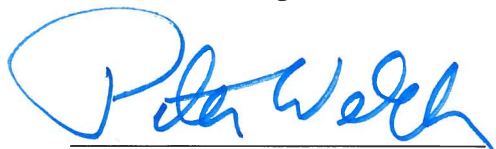
  
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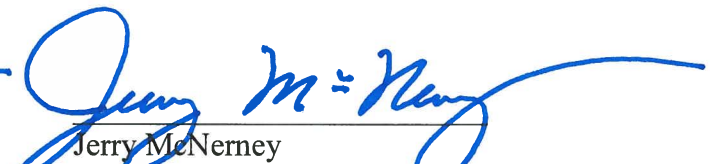
  
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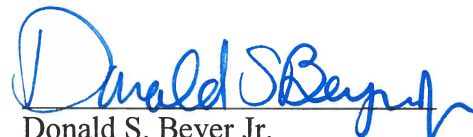
  
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Peter DeFazio  
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Mike Bishop  
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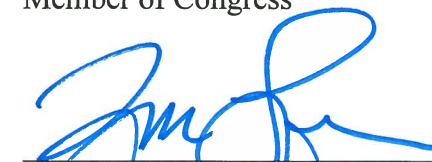
  
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Jerry McNerney  
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
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Salud Carbajal  
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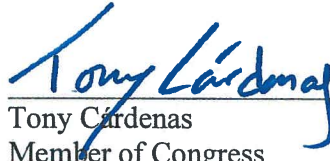
  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Tom Marino  
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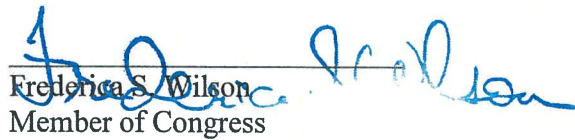
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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
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Frederica S. Wilson  
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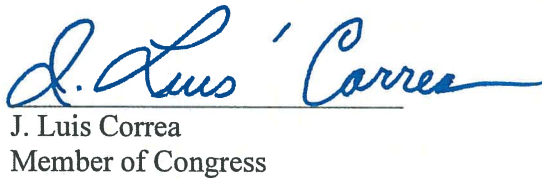
Sheila Jackson Lee  
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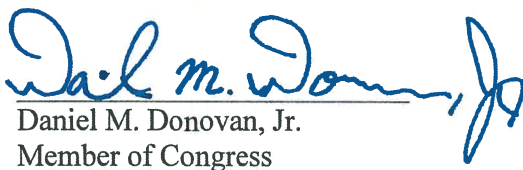
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Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
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